

Application No. 09/707,926

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**REMARKS**

The Office Action of August 16, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 9-11, 13-16, and 21-33 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 9 is an independent claim.

An amendment faxed May 5, 2004 amended claims 1-6 and added new claims 7-20, and an amendment faxed October 27, 2004 canceled claims 1-8 and 17-20. This Amendment amends claims 9-11 and 13-16, cancels claim 12, and adds new claims 21-33, for reasons discussed in more detail below. Support for these amendments is found in Applicant's summary of the invention and detailed description (see in particular: page 3, lines 17-19; page 5, lines 10-17; page 5, lines 27-29; and page 6, lines 29-31). Accordingly no new matter is believed to be added by these amendments.

1. Response to Claim Objection

The Office Action on page 2 objects to informalities in claim 9. In response thereto, this Amendment amends claim 9 to correct the claim informalities. Accordingly, Applicant believes the objection to be overcome.

2. Response to Rejection Under 35 USC 103

The Office Action on page 2 rejects claims 9-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundararajan, U.S. Patent No. 6,487,577. Specifically, the Office action cites column 3, lines 1-17 and column 4, lines 1-28 in rejecting claims 9-16. In response thereto Applicant amends claim 9 to more clearly set forth Applicant's invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that Sundararajan neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in independent claim 9 that concerns a computer implemented method for processing a print job with geographically distributed print shops, which includes sending via a computer network to a central repository production schedules (where each production schedule project a mapping between print jobs and print devices) for a set of print shops with access

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controls that allow visibility of their production schedules to another print shop, retrieving at the other print shop from the central repository, production schedules (sent by the set of print shops) that have access controls that limit visibility to the other print shop, and transferring at least part of a print job from the other print shop to a print shop in the set of print shops independent of any centralized scheduling application when spare printing capacity is indicated in at least one of the print shops in the set of print shops.

"Jobs" In Sundararajan Concerns Compilation And Not Printing As Claimed By Applicant:

In general, Sundararajan discloses a network resource scheduler (NRS) computer that receives from client computers *compiling tasks* and from sub-contractor (SC) computers their published computer capability descriptions (i.e., job-shops). The network resource scheduler computer compares modules of compiling task from the client computers and chooses those sub-contractor computers to which those modules are forwarded as jobs. (See Sundararajan Abstract.) In contrast to compiling jobs, Applicant's invention recited in claim 9 concerns a computer implemented method for processing a *print job*.

"Publication" In Sudararajan Is Performed To A Scheduler Not To Central Repository As Claimed By Applicant:

More specifically, Sundararajan discloses in column 4, lines 14-16 that a job-shop published to the scheduler computer "is an object that describes a capability set of a SC computer with respect to performing a particular type of job". In contrast, Applicant's invention recited in claim 9 comprises the sending of a graphical representation of a *production schedule* that projects a mapping between print jobs and print devices over a period of time.

"Scheduling" Is Performed In Sudararajan With "Job Level" Descriptions By A "Network Resource Scheduler" Not With "Production Schedules" That Are Retrieved By Print Shops From A Central Repository As Claimed By Applicant:

Further Sundararajan discloses in column 4, lines 25-28 that the published job-

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shops "allows the NRS computer to review the published capabilities of each SC computer and choose an SC computer which is available and capable of efficiently performing the task corresponding to the job". In an alternate embodiment, Sundararajan discloses in column 6, lines 4-8 that in a polling arrangement, a job or its description may be "transferred from, the NRS computer to the SC computer allowing the SC computer to determine whether the SC computer can complete the task". In contrast, Applicant's invention recited in claim 9 concerns the sending and retrieving by print shops to a central repository *production schedules*.

In Summary:

Applicant respectfully submits that for the reasons discussed above Sundararajan fails to disclose or suggest transferring between distributed print shops and a central repository *production schedules* that project a mapping between print jobs and print devices over a period of time for the purpose of transferring at least part of a print job between distributed print shops, as claimed by Applicant in independent claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 9 is patentably distinguishable over Sundararajan.

Insofar as claims 10-11, 13-16, and 21-33 are concerned, these claims depend from now presumably allowable independent claim 9 and are also believed to be in allowable condition.

3. Fee Authorization And Extension Of Time

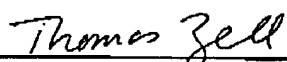
No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment or response, however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

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4. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby requested to call Attorney for Applicant(s), Thomas Zell.

Respectfully submitted,



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